

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

Claims 2-40 are pending in the application. Claims 18-20 and 36 are amended herein.

In response to the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review dated April 7, 2003, Applicants submit herewith one set of Replacement Drawings to replace all prior drawings in the application. The Replacement Drawings include reference character height corrections to FIGS. 1A-1D, 2 and 3B, and reference line thickness corrections to FIGS. 9A-9D and 14A. No new matter is introduced in any of the drawings; therefore no annotated sheets are provided.

In part 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 18-20, 26, 28, 36 and 38-40 under 37 CFR 1.75(c). The Examiner alleges that these claims are written in improper multiple-dependent form because they do not refer to other claims in the alternative. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claims 18-20, 26, 28, 36 and 38-40 are already written in proper multiple dependent form. See proper use of the term "any" in MPEP 608.01(n)(I)(A). By definition, "any" means "one (no matter which) of more than two". Webster's Dictionary, 2nd Ed. 1983. Reference to "any" of plural claims is therefore a reference in the alternative.

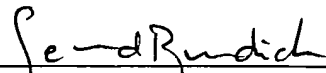
Nevertheless, in the interests of advancing prosecution to the merits, Applicants have amended each of claims 18-20 and 36 to read, in part: "the method of any one of claims" Each of claims 26, 28 and 38-40 incorporates the amended language through dependency. In view of these amendments, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw all formal objections, and examine claims 18-20, 26, 28, 36 and 38-40 on the merits.

Applicants believe no fees are due in connection with this Response; however, if any additional fees are in fact due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to Howrey Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing Howrey Dkt. No. 01339.0005.NPUS02.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 27, 2005

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box No. 7
Falls Church, VA 22042
Fax No. (703) 336-6950
Telephone No. (949) 759-5219


Sean D. Burdick, Reg. No. 51,513

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached set of Replacement Drawings include corrections to FIGS. 1A-1D, 2, 3B, 9A-9D and 14A.